

## Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /149 W

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R 120959Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7646

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY DACCA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 2363

E.O. 11\*02: N/A

TAGS: PINT PK

SUBJECT: BALUCHISTAN--PRIME MINISTER ACCEPTS GOVERNOR'S  
RESIGNATION "IN PRINCIPLE".

REF: KARACHI 1750; ISLAMABAD 7555

SUMMARY: AT NOVEMBER 11 MEETING WITH PRESS IN LAHORE  
PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO ANNOUNCED HE HAD ACCEPTED RESIGNATION  
OF BALUCHISTAN GOVERNOR AKBAR BUGTI "IN PRINCIPLE", AND  
ASKED HIM TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE FOR DECENT PERIOD OF TIME  
UNTIL ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE. GOVERNOR  
BUGTI'S RESIGNATION CLEARS WAY FOR FURTHER ATTEMPTS AT POLI-  
TICAL STABILIZATION IN PROVINCE, BUT IT UNCLEAR AT THIS TIME  
WHETHER THESE MOVES WILL BE IN DIRECTION OF POLITICAL RA-  
PPROACHMENT WITH BALUCHISTAN NAP, OR CONTINUED TINKERING  
WITH COALITION PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT INSTALLED FOLLOWING  
NAP/JUI COALITION'S DISMISSAL LAST FEBRUARY. END SUMMARY  
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1. BHUTTO'S COMMENTS: TALKING WITH PRESS IN LAHORE NOVEMBER 11, PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO STATED THAT FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNOR BUGTI NOVEMBER 10, GOVERNOR'S RESIGNATION, WHICH PROFERRED TO HIM OCTOBER 31 IN KARACHI, HAD BEEN ACCEPTED "IN PRINCIPLE". PRIME MINISTER ASKED BUGTI TO STAY ON FOR DECENT PERIOD OF TIME UNTIL ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE. WITHOUT DELINEATING SPECIFIC REASONS FOR RESIGNATION WHICH OUTLINED IN LETTER FROM FRIEND TO FRIEND GIVEN TO PRIME MINISTER BY GOVERNOR NOVEMBER 10, PRIME MINISTER INFERRED ANOMALOUS CONSTITUTIONAL SITUATION IN PROVINCE PRINCIPLE REASON FOR BUGTI'S RESIGNATION. BHUTTO POINTED OUT HE FACED WITH NEED TO RECTIFY CONSTITUTIONAL DILEMNA EXISTING IN BALUCHISTAN, SIMILAR TO THAT NOW BEING RECTIFIED IN PUNJAB, IN WHICH EXECUTIVE POWER BEING WIELDED BY GOVERNOR WHEREAS UNDER PAKISTAN'S CURRENT ISLAMIC CONSTITUTION SUCH POWER SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE CHIEF MINISTER.

2. BUGTI'S OBSERVATIONS: ON RETURNING TO QUETTA NOVEMBER 11, BUGTI TOLD PRESS HIS REASONS FOR RESIGNATION WERE PERSONAL AS WELL AS POLITICAL. IN AN ELLIPTICAL STATEMENT, NOTING HE HAD NO DIFFERENCES WITH PRIME MINISTER, BUGTI REPORTEDLY ADDED THERE COULD BE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON CERTAIN THINGS SINCE NO TWO HUMAN BEINGS CAN BE UNANIMOUS ON ALL ISSUES. IN ADDQTIONAL COMMENTS, BUGTI REPORTED TO HAVE SAID HE IS NOT RPT. NOT GOING TO START HOSTILE ACTIVITIES AND HE ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORTED CLOSER ECONOMIC, TRADE AND POLITICAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN SOUTH ASIAN STATES AND MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES BUT MADE CLEAR SUCH COLLABORATION WAS NOT RELATED TO THE SOVIET-SPONSORED ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SCHEME. ASKED ABOUT DEGREE OF PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY PROVIDED UNDER PAKISTAN'S NEW CONSTITUTION, BUGTI SAID IT WAS "NOT (RPT NOT) SUFFICIENT", ADDING "IT IS A VERY GOOD BEGINNING."

3. COMMENT: HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE PRIME MINISTER TO MAKE SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS PERMITTING IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNOR BUGTI'S RESIGNATION IS UNCERTAIN. BHUTTO MNCAN MOVE IN ONE OR TWO DIOCTIONS--ATTEMPT TO SHORE UP CURRENT ANTI-NAP COALITION GOVERNMENT BY APPOINTMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW GOVERNOR AND STRONGER CHIEF MINISTER AND EXPANDING THE PROVINCIAL CABINET, OR HE CAN PUSH FURTHER ALONG THE ROAD OF ATTEMPTING TO REACH SOME RAPPROACHMENT WITH BALUCHISTAN NAP TO ACHIEVE ITS INVOLVEMENT IN A MORE BROADLY BASED COALITION PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. THERE APPRECIABLE SPECULATION BHUTTO FAVORABLE TOWARD INSTALLATION OF GOP MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE RAISANI AS PROVINCIAL CHIEF MINISTER AND THIS MAY OCCUR NOW THAT BUGTI'S RESIGNATION

CLEAR WAY FOR INVESTING CHIEF MINISTER WITH EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY. HOWEVER, RAISANI'S ASSUMPTION OF CHIEF MINISTERSHIP AND CONTINUATION OF NON-NAP COALITION GOVERNMENT, EVEN WITH AN EXPANDED CABINET, UNLIKELY PLACATE NAP RESULTING IN CONTINUATION OF PRESENT UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF AFFAIRS. WHILE BUGTI'S RESIGNATION IMPROVES CLIMATE FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS, PROVINCIAL NAP'S PRICE FOR PARTICIPATION IN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT STILL LIKELY TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE THAN PRIME MINISTER WILLING TO PAY. BUGTI'S RESIGNATION, UNLESS FOLLOWED UP BY FURTHER POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND HIS ACTUAL REPLACEMENT, CAN BEST BE EVALUATED AS THE APPEARANCE OF MOVEMENT, SINCE BASIC POLITICAL ACCORD YET REMAINS TO BE ACHIEVED.

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